

*"If you don't stand for something you will fall for anything." — Peter Marshall*

# Country Journal

*Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns*

Becket, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Otis, Plainfield, Russell, Sandisfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | [www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

April 29, 2021 | Vol. 43, No. 1 | 75¢

[www.countryjournal.turley.com](http://www.countryjournal.turley.com)

## WILLIAMSBURG

# Town considers spray opt-out

By Peter Spotts

Concerns around the damage mosquito spraying has on the community has some in town wanting to opt out of the state's annual mosquito spraying, but a tight deadline may prevent it this year.

Board of Health Chair Donna Gibson told the Selectboard on Thursday, April 23, the western part of the state has low incident rates for the major mosquito diseases and there are concerns over the impact spraying has on humans, wildlife, and pollinators.

"We have very low incidents of West Nile and EEE. It is a problem in the eastern part of the state, especially for the coast. The closest we've had Eastern Equine is Belchertown," Gibson said. "I feel like the damage to our bees, the reptiles, and the birds, and the damage we're doing to our whole food source with pollinators in general is a real risk, not to mention what it might do to us."

One of the issues the

town faces with state spraying is they are not sure exactly where the state sprays. Gibson said she is in touch with the Highway Department to find out what places in town have standing water and how the town can do its own local treatment if it opts out of the state spraying.

"How would we do that? What venues would we use to do that? What can the town be doing around mitigation on a smaller level?" she said.

The board had several questions and would like more information about the different aspects of the issue before committing to a decision.

"There's a lot I feel like I don't know. What is the thinking about why to do this?" Chairman Bill Sayre said. "I just feel I need more education."

"I know just from my own reading, and I'm not well informed about the whole thing either, but I know there have been genetic defects showing up

SPRAY, page 3

## WORTHINGTON

# No recommendation for citizen's petition

By Peter Spotts

The Planning Board decided to make no recommendation on the citizen's petition to lower the minimum required frontage for a principal building from 400 feet to 280 feet for Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 1.

Resident Tina McCarthy submitted the petition after the struggles she has had with her family trying to build a house in Worthington. She presented her reasoning and research behind the proposal at a public hearing on Friday, April 23. The petition will be voted on Saturday during ATM.

"Our lot, which had 250 feet of frontage, would be buildable in any other town in the state," McCarthy said. "We've been looking to find a house for our family in town for a while now and haven't been able to do that, so that's what spurred us to submit this to Annual Town Meeting."

McCarthy researched neighboring towns including Cummington, Chester, Chesterfield, Middlefield, and Peru and found none

of them had frontage requirements higher than 200 feet. She presented her findings into the history of Worthington and the frontage requirements in a brief presentation during the meeting, including her findings it'd be easier for her family to build a home if they put a road through their property.

"This frontage exemption that's granted to developers encourages them to build new roads in town, essentially, and allows them reduced frontage along those roads," she said. "It was suggested that we should build a road on our property in order to get enough frontage...It just struck me as kind of astounding that I wasn't able to build a single-family house on a parcel that's big enough to build a road through and subdivide."

McCarthy's concerns are bolstered by Worthington holding, based on her research, the highest median property of its surrounding towns and it has risen 101% since 2000. However, some residents attending the meeting feel

BYLAW, page 9

## BECKET

# ATM warrant set for May 8

By Shelby Macri

The Annual Town Meeting warrant for Saturday, May 8. Has been approved and will be held at the Becket Washington School at 7 p.m. where residents will vote on 19 items.

Many items are standard including to vote on compensation for the Select Board, Board of Health, and the Cemetery Commission; along with the operating budget for fiscal year 2022. The budget is the second item on the warrant and makes a motion that the town raise and appropriates \$7,039,413 for fiscal 2022. The budget lists 114

WARRANT, page 6

## CHESTERFIELD

# 6 North Road set for mapping

By Peter Spotts

Last fall, voters sent the message to town officials they didn't want to approve funding to demolish the structures on 6 North Road or break up the property without a plan and the town is moving to the next phase of getting that information.

The Selectboard awarded a survey contract to Holmberg and Howe Inc. of Easthampton to survey the property lines and wetlands of the property and find out exactly how much of the land

MAPPING, page 6

## GATEWAY

# Spring sports start season

By Shelby Macri

Gateway Regional Athletic Director Matt Bonenfant presented updates for the Baseball and Softball Spring Season as it has been approved by the Board of Health and the MIAA with modifications to the sport for health and safety reasons to the Gateway Regional School Committee earlier this month.

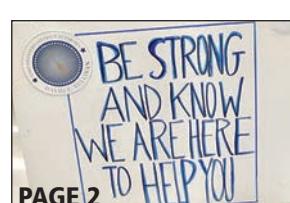
If the school were to go to remote after approving the season, the sports

SPORTS, page 7



Blandford participated in the National Drug Takeback Day, Saturday, April 24. Selectboard member Thomas Ackley turned in his excess old prescriptions as Chester-Blandford Police Chief Tammy Weidhaas, left, and Council on Aging Chair Judith MacKinnon look on. There were 49 pounds of unwanted prescription drugs had been disposed of in Blandford. Weidhaas said she was "very satisfied with the day overall." The Williamsburg Pharmacy and Worthington Transfer Station also had drug collection boxes set up.

Photo by Mary Kronholm



Becket.....6	Cummington.....2	Obituary.....10	Russell.....3
Blandford.....12	Goshen.....6	Opinion.....4, 5	Schools & Youth.....7
Business Directory.....3	Hilltowns .....2	Otis.....5	Westhampton .....9
Chesterfield .....6	Huntington.....3	Plainfield .....9	Williamsburg.....3
Classifieds.....11	Middlefield.....3	Public Notices.....10	Worthington.....9



## HILTTOWNS

# Domestic violence abusers hotline up and running

By Eileen Kennedy

Always looking for an alternate way to address domestic violence, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, along with other groups, have planned and started an anonymous, non-recorded help line for domestic abusers.

The PVPC is working with Behavioral Health Network and the non-profit Growing A New Heart, as well as two rural domestic violence task forces from the Ware River Valley and the Southern Hilltowns to oversee and guide the project.

While most programs target hotlines, counseling and planning for domestic abuse victims, this new hotline, Ten to Ten, is for domestic violence abusers, and is the first such hotline in the United States, although similar programs exist in Australia and the United Kingdom.

Monica Moran, coordinator for the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force and PVPC's Domestic Violence Prevention Programs manager, said as domestic abuse has risen during the pandemic, she and others were looking to find another tool that could

address the problem.

"There's a national move toward restorative justice," she said referring to the adoption of non-criminal responses to criminal behavior. "It was a way to not just to have the victim always be the one who has to do things, such as move out. We wanted to increase the options to anybody who wanted to stop abusing, and who wants their partner to be safe."

CARES Act funding will be used as it is intended to address the impact of COVID-19, and studies across the country and the world show an increase in intimate partner violence since the pandemic started, she said. It's not too surprising that the rates have risen, she said, because the pandemic's physical restrictions and job losses have put more stress on families.

"The pandemic didn't cause the abuse, but when life isn't going well sometimes the abusers take it out on those around them," Moran said.

Jason Patrissi, a volunteer with the hotline, said he believes it will be effective tool for those who are already abusive or who at risk to be abusive. "They're already one step up because

they have motivation or epiphany to want it to stop," he said.

Abusers' belief and value systems allow them to see abuse as an approved mode of behavior, he said, and they often overestimate how many people believe the same thing.

"They've usually been socialized to violence," Patrissi said. Usually, the turning point comes when a partner is leaving or has left, and when it might impact how often they get to see their children.

Abusers, most of whom are men, can call the hotline without fear of being identified and ask for help, Moran said.

Patrissi stressed this is not about offering mental health therapy, although that might be needed at some point, and it's not about what causes abuse; it's about changing behavior by changing one's values.

"I've been working with abusive men for over 20 years, and it's very difficult to reach self-actualization by one's self, they need a lot of support and there isn't a lot of it out there," he said.

The callers, who can also be friends and family members who may be afraid a person is going to abuse their partner, or

who already has, may be looking for help as well, Moran said.

The volunteers ask the abusers what their goal is and what they are willing to do to reach it, Patrissi said. They explore what's going on with them, and in the short-term abusers can be referred to resources, such as intimate partner abuse groups. These groups are funded by the state Department of Public Health, and go for 40 weeks, with two-hour groups each week. They meet with fellow abusers along with a facilitator on the issue of domestic abuse.

Abusers have to come to the mindset that they don't have the right to put their hands on anyone, he said, and learn "to do no harm."

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is providing supplemental funding so that the Helpline can serve all of Western Massachusetts.

The Helpline will serve Western Massachusetts and will operate from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 365 days a year. The toll-free number is 877-898-3411. Family, friends, and professionals worried that someone may harm their partner can also call the Helpline.

## VOICES OF SUPPORT



Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan shares his message for survivors of domestic violence as part of the Southern Hilltowns Domestic Violence Task Force's Hilltown Voice's campaign to raise awareness to prevent and end domestic violence. Hilltown Safety at Home domestic violence advocacy services can be reached at 413-667-2203 or 413-693-9977. Ten to Ten Helpline for people at risk of harming their partner or for those worried someone they know is harming their partner can be reached at 877-898-3411.

*Submitted photo*

## CUMMINGTON

### Friday Night Café releases new song

CUMMINGTON — The Friday Night Café has been delivering music throughout the COVID-19 pandemic online until it's safe to gather together again.

The April post is up at The New Rural Advocate website. For this month's theme of "Rain," the Café has "Nothing but Love" by One Part Luck.

The café is excited to share planning is underway to fold an outdoor summer café in June, July, and August. More information will be available next month.

Friday Night Café adopted a "Lo-Fi" approach as many performers have gone the route of live streaming their

performances, or making videos, during COVID-19. Those efforts presented an array of technology challenges including slow hilltown internet, lack of gear, lack of knowledge or experience with gear, and watching on screens. Posting the audio files makes it easier to alleviate some of these difficulties. Depending on the flow, one or a few recordings will be sent out on Fridays.

Once again, this is brought to the community by the friendly folks at the Village Church who believe that music can be a powerful force for building community. All FNC songs are posted online at newruraladvocate.com.

# Look at the bright side of life. Summer.

Sam Adams 12pk cans or bottles... \$16.59 w/dep.

**Do you need more? Come in and find.**

**Best Prices in Town • Best Selection • Honest Lottery**

**HUNTINGTON LIQUORS**

21 Russell Road, Huntington (413) 667-3201

## RUSSELL

### Local student named to Dean's List

RUSSELL — Toni Ferrara-James was named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at Goodwin University. Dean's List inclusion requires a student to earn a minimum

3.5 GPA, the equivalent of an A- average, during a given academic session. The student must also be enrolled in a minimum of six academic credits to qualify.

### Celebrate Mother's Day with Noble View hike

RUSSELL — Come to the Appalachian Mountain Club's lovely Noble View Outdoors Center for a wildflower hike on Saturday, May 8, at 10 a.m.

The hike will start from the mid-level parking lot for an easy hike to Pitcher Brook and then loop back for approximately a 2.5-mile total. A checklist of over 30 flowers found on the Noble View

property will be available and participants are encouraged to bring their own wildflower books. Group size is limited, and AMC COVID-19 protocols will be observed.

For more information and pre-registration, which is required, visit [activities.outdoors.org/search](http://activities.outdoors.org/search). Contact Laura Stinnette at 413-454-3232 with any questions.

## MIDDLEFIELD

### Transfer Station summer hours begin May 5

MIDDLEFIELD — Summer Transfer Station hours begin next Wednesday, May 5. It will be open from 4 to 8 p.m. on

Wednesdays. The station will be closed Saturday, May 8, but will resume Sunday, May 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## MIDDLEFIELD SENIOR CENTER

Lunch is served at the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, each Wednesday at noon.

A \$3 donation is suggested. Reservations should be made, and meal choice stated, by calling and leaving a

message at 413-623-9990 the Monday before. Pick-up and delivery are available. The menu on Wednesday, May 5, is sizzling fajita chicken, chuckwagon blend, Spanish rice, whole wheat tortilla, and carrot cake.

## WILLIAMSBURG

### SPRAY

*from page 1*

in amphibians and there's a decrease in the rate of birthed eggs from amphibians," Gibson said. "We know there's a real problem with our pollinators, the bee population in particular, that has been harmed by it, and also the birds, but I don't have researched information directly to give you."

As part of the process, the town would also need to hold a public comment session at a Selectboard meeting.

The town has until Saturday, May 15, to complete an opt out application, which also must address the town's plan for spraying. Town Administrator Charlene Nardi supports the idea, but

is concerned there isn't enough time for the town to answer all its questions before the deadline.

"I think it's because it's the first time that communities have the option to really opt out and I think it's because communities have been pushing back," Nardi said. "I think this is something the town should move forward with for next year, absolutely; I'm just not sure we can make it happen for this year."

"I'm kind of halfway in between. I realize the chemicals they use might not be good for all of our environment, but I'm concerned about all the diseases mosquitos can carry," Mathers said.

## HUNTINGTON

### COA announces activities

HUNTINGTON — The Council on Aging is offering activities for seniors to do at home. Puzzles, craft bags, and exercise kits will be available for pick up on the third Friday of each month at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road in Huntington, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. during Brown Bag distribution.

Puzzles are isolated for two weeks before redistribution. Craft bags will vary each month. The exercise kit features an exercise DVD, hand weights, and exercise bands. Please call 413-512-5205 to reserve items for pick up.

Massachusetts Councils on Aging encourages all Councils on Aging to promote walking for seniors. Physical activity improves the overall health and well-being of older adults. Even modest levels of activity done daily for 30 min-

utes can prevent or control heart disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, colon cancer, and weight gain. Walking boosts energy levels, improves blood circulation, lowers blood pressure, combats depression, and reduces stress.

The Council on Aging is sponsoring a "Walking Challenge" and all participants will receive a walking journal, information on walking groups, and the Town walking map. The challenge is to determine a weekly personal walking goal and track the progress on the walking log. At the end of 26 weeks, participants are requested to return the log to the Council on Aging in to qualify for a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate for a new pair of shoes. The gift certificate drawing will be held in October. Please call 413-512-5205 to sign up.

### COA opens farm share applications

HUNTINGTON — The Council on Aging is once again offering farm shares through Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture. The cost is just \$10 and covers all 10 weeks of the program.

Participants must be Huntington residents and 60 years old or older to qualify. In addition, they must be able to answer yes to at least one of the following four criteria: they receive SNAP benefits (food stamps), Medicaid, SSI, AFDC, welfare, or veteran's aid; they

participate in the Food Bank's Brown Bag Program; they live alone; and their income is below \$25,760 or the total income of their household is below \$34,840 (only one share per household).

The application deadline is June 1. There are 18 shares available. If more than 18 applications are received, then there will be a random drawing to select the participants. If interested, please call Kathleen Peterson at 413-512-5205.

## NORWICH HILL

The First Congregational Church of Huntington reminds everyone even though our physical doors are closed until further notice, we are most definitely open for worship, praise, ministry, and fellowship. We are an Open and Affirming Church inviting, welcoming, and affirming everyone — seekers, believers, and wonderers alike — on their journey of faith, to join in 10 a.m. Zoom Sunday worship.

Our readings from 1 John 4:7-21 and John 15:1-8 invite us to wonder about what it means to "abide" in the deep, living connection to life and community that nourishes us and gives our fruit its distinctive terroir.

The pastor is always available to speak with you. If you do not receive our emails and would like to connect with our Zoom worship service and/or fellowship time, please contact Pastor Carol at [firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com) to receive the information you will need to participate or send us a message on Facebook.

Please use the phone numbers and email address provided to stay in touch or to contact the pastor. You are also invited to find us on Facebook at "Norwich Hill" for updates, information, and spiritual encouragement. For more information, please contact 413-667-3935 or 860-798-7771 or [firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com).

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

**George**  
PROPANE INC.  
PROPLANE GAS  
PLUMBING • HEATING  
(413) 268-8360  
TOLL FREE 1-800-464-2053  
Family Owned & Operated  
3 Berkshire Trail West (Route 9), P.O. Box 102, Goshen, MA 01032  
[www.georgepropane.com](http://www.georgepropane.com)

**WHITING**  
ENERGY FUELS  
Heating Oil & Diesel  
[whitingenergy.com](http://whitingenergy.com)  
300A KING ST., NORTHAMPTON  
584-3500  
11 CLEVELAND RD., DALTON  
1-800-722-0014

**DOWN TO EARTH**  
EXCAVATING INC  
Highly Regarded Professionals: Complete Site Work, Septic Development and Repairs. Fully insured.  
**413+ 667+ 5269**  
Paul & Randy LaPointe, Owners Huntington, Mass.

**Dale's Structural & Carpentry**  
Home Improvement • Additions • Restorations • Remodeling  
Timber Frame Homes Kitchen & Baths  
Residential Drywall • Paint • Trim Work  
Seasonal Homes & Camps Windows • Doors  
Garage Repairs Decks & Stairs  
Carriage & Colonial Barns Interior & Exterior Finishes  
**Structural Repairs - Wood - Masonry**  
Sagging Floors • Beams • Sill Timbers • Columns • Termite Damage  
Foundation Repairs • Piers & Footings • Chimney Rebuilds  
**413-667-3149**

**AQUA PUMPS**  
WATER SYSTEMS  
Water Pumps • Sewer Pumps  
Water Conditioners  
46 Pitcher Street Donald Washburn  
Montgomery, MA 01085 862-3301

**Kirke R. Henshaw, Inc.**  
Water Well Drilling, Water Pump Sales & Service  
Water Testing • System Evaluations  
Water System Repairs • Hydrofracture to Increase Flow  
800-232-4725 • Fax 413-296-4565  
Charles R. Henshaw  
130 Cummings Rd., W. Chesterfield, MA • 413-296-4725

**Hilltown**  
Cleaning Services  
Established in 1982 • House Cleaning Plus  
Time to CLEAN UP  
Carol Labonte Paul Labonte  
Carpet & Upholstery Steam Cleaned  
Wood Floors, Waxed & Buffed  
No Wax Floors, Stripped & Refinished  
Hauling Trash • Appliance Removal • Pressure Washing  
Gutters Cleaned Out • Cleaning Out Cellars & Attics  
P.O. Box 244 Worthington, MA 01098  
**Phone: (413) 238-5966**  
Fax: (413) 238-0459

**Jeff's**  
Oil Burner Service  
Huntington, Massachusetts  
**413.667.0245**  
Cell **413.530.7037**  
[jeffsoilburnerservice@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffsoilburnerservice@hotmail.com)

FEED • PET SUPPLIES • CLOTHING • COAL  
WOOD PELLETS • WILD & CAGED BIRDSEED  
POOL SUPPLIES • MOTOR OILS • FENCING  
LAWN & GARDEN SUPPLIES • FERTILIZER  
**GATEWAY FARM & PET**  
PoulinGrain RED WING SHOES Carhartt  
59 RUSSELL ROAD, HUNTINGTON, MA 01050  
**1-413-667-2279** M-F 8am-5pm Sat. 8am-4pm  
TARA GRENIER • PAUL GRENIER

**Paul's**  
Plumbing & Heating  
**238-0303**  
PAUL GRAHAM  
Mass. License 23299

**ARCHITECT**  
JEFFREY SCOTT PENN  
77 Worthington Road, Huntington, MA 01050  
Tel. 413w-667-5230  
fax. 413-667-3082  
Email: [jsped@verizon.net](mailto:jsped@verizon.net)  
new construction, renovation,  
historic preservation

**Contact**  
John Baskin  
to advertise at  
**413-695-4901**  
or email:  
[jbaskin@turley.com](mailto:jbaskin@turley.com)

# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN

### History Matters April 16 to April 30

By John Grimaldi and David Bruce Smith

#### April 16 to April 30

**L**ess than two months after the siege of the Alamo, the Texas War for Independence took a turn towards triumph; on April 21, 1836, Sam Houston overwhelmed the army of Mexican General Santa Anna in the Battle of San Jacinto Houston, and his volunteers flogged the Mexican army and imprisoned their leader.

Houston agreed to release Santa Anna, a former Mexican president 11 times, only if he endorsed a treaty that acknowledged their independence and ended Mexico's aggressive machinations.

In the meantime, the Republic of Texas was formed in 1836, and Houston was elected president--twice.

On Dec. 29, 1845, Texas became America's 28th state, but maneuvers with Mexico persisted another two years; according to History.com, it "helped to fulfill America's 'manifest destiny' to expand its territory across the entire North American continent."

For more information about Sam Houston, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends "The Mexican American War" by John DiConsiglio.

#### Earth Day

In 1847, Vermont Congressman George Perkins Marsh gave a speech that positioned the nation into thinking about the necessity "to conserve America's natural resources," according to the Library of Congress.

Seventeen years later, President Lincoln signed the Yosemite Valley Grant Act; it declared that California's Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Grove "shall be held for public use, resort and recreation." Eight years later, President Ulysses S. Grant signed the Yellowstone National Park Protection Act into law and set up the first national park in the world.

Throughout the industrial revolution, in the end days of the 19th century and most of the 20th, the environmentalists' lobby to restore water and air pollution to reasonable ratios, has lagged in most cases.

Then, in 1969, Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson inaugurated a crusade to enlighten America about why the earth's resources needed to be saved.

The first "Earth Day" was celebrated April 22, 1970. According to the website, the event "inspired 20 million Americans, at the time, 10% of the total population of the United States, to take to the streets, parks and auditoriums to demonstrate against the impacts of 150 years of industrial development, which had left a growing legacy of serious human impacts."

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "World Without Fish" by Mark Kurlansky.

#### George Washington

On April 30, 1789, George Washington was "humbled" when he was elected America's first president, according to the Library of Congress. Washington "delivered the speech in a deep, low voice that betrayed what one observer called 'manifest embarrassment.'"

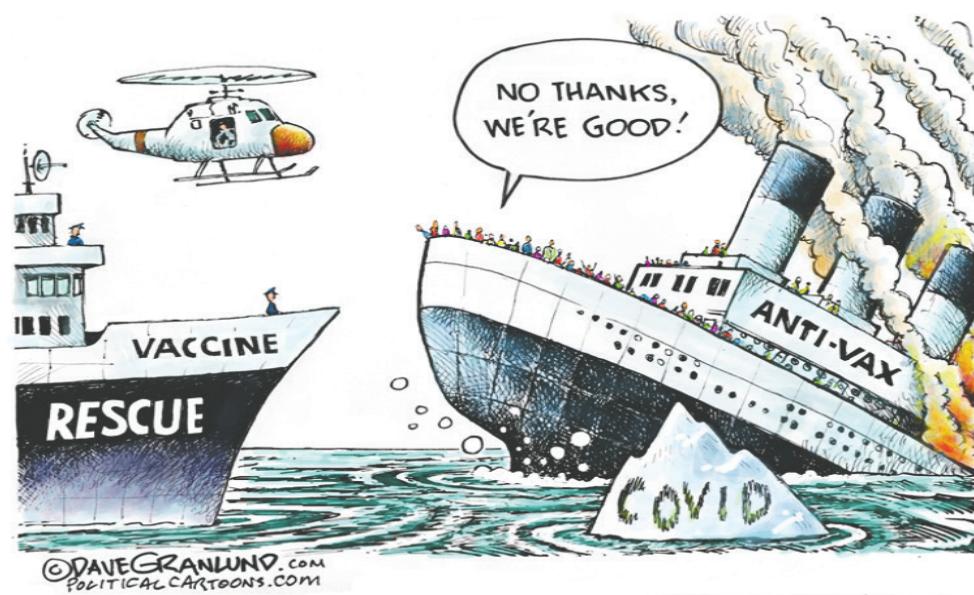
He conveyed his Federal Hall remarks in the nation's New York City capital. They

**HISTORY**, page 5

## Corrections policy

If you notice a factual error in our pages, please let us know, so that we can set the record straight. Email information to [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com), or call us at 413-283-8393.

Corrections will be printed in the same section where the error originally occurred.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Supporting frontage reduction

This is not to be perceived as a rant or a criticism to anyone just a few thoughts from a tired old lady. I am not a native of Worthington, but have lived here for 62 years, but we love it like a native! We moved here and raised a family, spent many days and hours enjoying our lives here. We have seen lots a good and not so good changes to our town.

I would like to speak in favor of the change to our frontage, by a citizen's petition at the upcoming town meeting. I hope everyone attends this meeting and votes! But, be prepared to stay for a while because they always seem to hold it until the end of meeting, perhaps because by then those seats have gotten to your butt and people have left! I ask you to take a cushion, your oxygen or whatever you need to make it through.

I would prefer to go back to 200-foot

frontage but will settle for almost anything less than 400 feet, which is considered by some as "snob zoning." Our beautiful town needs a mixture of genders and ages in order to survive! We have an active school department, strong fire and police departments, let's do the right thing and make it affordable for families! An older generation will not be able to financially support all the things that need taxpayer support!

Thank you for listening to my thoughts, I hope you will make the effort to attend and vote!

If this passes, maybe we could allow for a second small dwelling on your property, for us old folks to live in and not have to die somewhere else; the rental income would pay for our meds!

Patricia Nugent  
Worthington

## GUEST COLUMN

### How to plant a bare root apple tree

Sometimes I wish I had bought for the land and not for the house. In my dreams, I'd have a field big enough to grow all the pumpkins a girl could want, and a sunny slope to have an amazing orchard of heirloom apple trees. Maybe someday, but for now I squeeze in apple trees here and apple trees there. One outside the chicken coop. Three in the perennial border. And as of this past weekend two more near the clothesline. Read on to see how I did it.

Planting a tree is not like planting a bush or a perennial plant. Should you make a mistake about the placement of those you can easily dig them up and move them. I think my parents moved their blueberries twice without injury to the bushes. Trees are a whole different story; you want to do it right the first time.

I was home all day on Friday, scoping out the yard. You think you know where the sunny spots are; fruit trees want at least six hours of full sun, until you document it by the hour. Overhead trees are not leafed out yet, so that has to be taken into consideration, but even so, one area I assumed to be sunny was actually in shade most of the day; another area was just the opposite. Voilà! It is a perfect spot for the fruit trees!

I then began to fret that the soil there would not be good enough, and without any finished compost on hand to amend the hole,

my planting would be delayed even further. Lucky for me adding lots of peat or compost to the planting hole is old advice. These days we want the roots to extend far beyond the original hole. If the soil is too good there the roots will never want to leave. This way, over the long-term, they will go looking for nourishment and anchor themselves into the surrounding soil.

I began the task of digging a three foot wide by two foot deep hole. I shook the sod and placed it in a clump for the compost pile. The topsoil was put on plastic in one spot and the subsoil in another. Large rocks were discarded. Happily, I did have some rock phosphate left on hand from last fall. I sprinkled one cup, and found out later that one pound was the recommendation! in the planting hole and scratched it in. It will aid in root development. I also took my shovel and loosed the "walls" of the hole to make it easier for the roots to penetrate as they spread.

Most grafted trees should be planted with the graft union two to three inches above the soil line. I positioned the bare-root tree in the hole and made a quick measurement with a stick across the hole. The graft union was too deep, so I mounded a little soil under the roots. That adjustment brought the tree to the correct depth. I dumped some water in next to collapse air pockets and then shoveled in the topsoil. Experts recommend that you backfill the hole with topsoil first, it is more friable, and then place the subsoil elsewhere in the hole, tamping down as you go, with your feet.

I made a basin around the tree after I was finished, a slightly sunken area to catch water. Eventually I will add a layer of compost on top and apply some mulch in the form of shredded bark or hay to create a



**GARDEN**, page 5

## EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 500 words or less in length. We require letter writers to include his or her name, town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Mail letter to Country Journal, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or mail your letter to: [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com).



**Digital Photos**  
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.  
Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to [newspapers.turley.com/photo-request](http://newspapers.turley.com/photo-request)

ISSN NO. 0747-2471

## Country Journal

The *Country Journal* (USPS 483-550) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1777.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

PATRICK H. TURLEY  
CEO

KEITH TURLEY  
President

EDITOR  
Peter Spotts  
[pspotts@turley.com](mailto:pspotts@turley.com)

STAFF WRITER  
Shelby Macri  
[smaci@turley.com](mailto:smacri@turley.com)

ADVERTISING SALES  
John Baskin  
[jbaskin@turley.com](mailto:jbaskin@turley.com)

SOCIAL MEDIA

@Country Journal

WEB  
[countryjournal.turley.com](http://countryjournal.turley.com)

**Turley**  
Publications, Inc.  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

# OPINION

## HILTTOWN HISTORY

### Google Eyes in Earth

By Deborah Daniels

**A**re you prepared to meet google eyes rising up from your garden? That's right, Brood X cicadas are due to hatch soon after 17 years in the making, underground. Predictions are that those red eyed flying insects will be popping out everywhere in May and June, once the ground temperature gets above 64 degrees. They say masses of them.

Don't fret they are harmless; they do not want a piece of you. Cicadas are herbivores; their mouths are adapted for piercing plant tissue and feeding on the sap or xylem. Mostly they prefer to dine on young trees and grass roots.

There are three species of cicadas on 13-year cycles and three species of cicadas on 17-year cycles. They live for two to six weeks once they emerge from the ground. They shed their exoskeletons and go about their business, which is to procreate, and then there are annual cicadas that pop up every year, usually June through September. They are green colored with dark black eyes, no eerie red eyes on these cicadas. They are also described as livelier than the 17-year cycle cicadas. All cicadas live and grow underground, only coming up to mate. How cicadas know when to erupt from down under is a mystery, but someone is keeping score.

You might want to hold off planting any young trees this spring. The female cicadas make a slit in twigs and small branches to lay her eggs in. If enough slits girdle the branch, the branch may split open and die, harming the tree. Mature trees can handle this better than young trees. The problem is a female

cicada can lay up to 600 eggs.

There are some positive forces from these little aliens, they do aerate the soil and their dying bodies will fertilize the trees with Nitrogen.

Did I mention that male cicadas sing by rubbing membranes in their abdomen to the tune of 90 decibels to attract a mate? Yup, about the sound of a tractor or lawn mower. Goodnight Irene!

Your strategy to repel these buggers? Experts recommend spraying them off with water and putting mesh nets around young trees to protect them. Have fun watching the squirrels and birds go a bugging as well as turtles, raccoons, and possums dining al fresco on cicadas. You won't see them again till 2038.

CicadaSafari.org is an app to help scientists map the emergence of Brood X cicadas. You can submit photos of cicadas in your area to them.

One other event you won't want to miss is No Mow May! There is a group out of England promoting growing a meadow instead of a lawn called #NoMowMay. They want to encourage us to grow wildflowers to feed pollinators like bees and butterflies. They urge holding off mowing the lawn to just once a month and with "Let it Bloom June," and "Knee High in July," who can resist the campaign, just say no to mow! You might want to scatter some meadow flower seeds in that long grass.

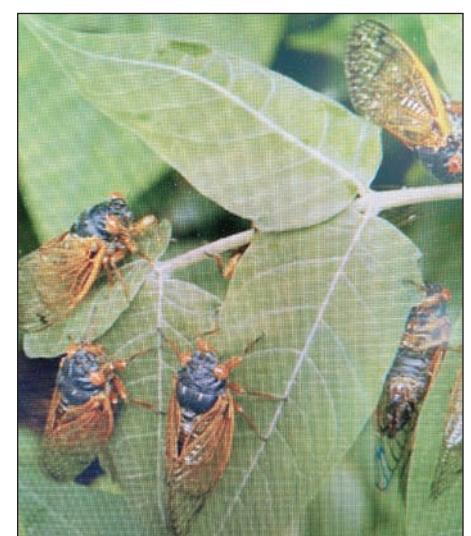
Enjoy the outdoors and sing praise to the planet Earth. Remember to wear your safari net lest you inhale a cicada.

*Do you have a memory or historical curiosity from the Hilltowns that you'd like to share with your neighbors? Send your story and photos to countryjournal@turley.com.*



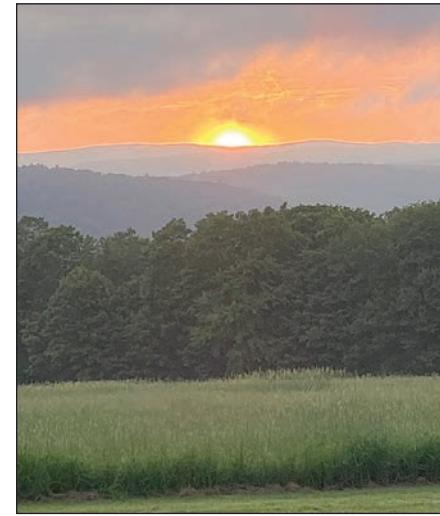
A cicadas on a stamp.

Submitted photos by Deborah Daniels

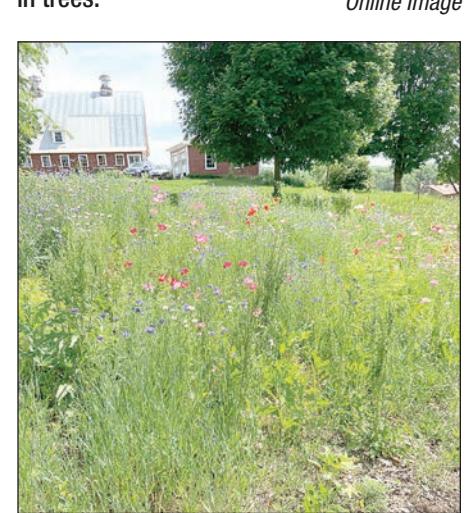


Cicadas' come up from underground every 13 or 17 years to mate and lay their eggs in trees.

Online Image



Enjoy growing a meadow instead of a lawn this year. Pictured are meadows in Westhampton and Huntington.



## GARDEN

from page 4

happy environment for all of the "feeder" roots. If Mother Nature doesn't provide at least an inch of rain per week I will trickle water slowly into the basin twice a week to help establish the tree.

Although a few years will pass before I pick those first fruits, hopefully proper planting will ensure years of fruitfulness.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

## HISTORY

from page 4

were somewhat brief and fixated on the passage of the Bill of Rights. He had no obligation to deliver a message, other than to take his oath of office, but with that gesture, he set a precedent to address the nation, a tradition observed by every president since. Washington was the Chief Executive two consecutive, four-year terms.

*History Matters is a biweekly feature courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, which is given to children's books that emphasize the importance of American history.*

*The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "George Washington and the Founding of a Nation," by Albert Marrin.*

## OTIS

### The Otis Library from Then to Now

By Kathleen Bort

It is the History of the Library time. I decided to tell you about the Otis Library and Museum, the greatest little library in the world.

The Otis Public Library was established in 1891 with \$100 worth of books from the Commonwealth and was housed in Mrs. Edmund Davidson's home. The library moved several times between 1891 and 1953. With an initial donation of \$10,000 from Graham Hunter and with work, and dedication and a few contributors, the conveyance of the current site was finally recorded on July 17, 1948 and The Otis Library a small historic red building located in the center of town at 48 North Main Road moved to its present location in 1953. The building was owned and managed by the Library Corporation until June 2013, when it was re-deeded to the Town of Otis.

The library structure is comprised of masonry block, the roof is covered with asphalt shingles, and the heating system is hot water baseboard. The first floor holds a collection of approximately 12,500 items, five computers, a copy machine, and a network printer for patrons use. Wireless access is available throughout the library and is on 24

hours a day, seven days a week for people needing internet access from outside the library. Inside the library, patrons may also use their own personal devices. Patrons can sit in matching upholstered high back chairs around a large library table, originally owned by Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt when they lived at 125 East 36th Street, New York City. The library also has mounted a large flat screen which can be used for computer classes, speaking events or other educational purposes. The walls in the main room have been used to showcase art and photography from local amateurs, professionals and school children. The dedicated "Joel Morris" Reading Room was renovated, painted and furnished with new desks and chairs, donated by the family in 2014. The children's room was moved to the main circulation area in 2017. The porch area serves as a book sale area.

The second floor is closed to the general public because there is no handicap accessibility. However, special groups are permitted admission. There are two rooms upstairs which have been cleaned and re-organized. One room is dedicated to the museum and displays artifacts and historic memorabilia of the Farmington River area. Many items have been identified and dated. A donation

policy was approved by the trustees in 2013 to record and catalog the items held in the museum. The reading room allows reading of old items, private conferencing, tutoring, social conferencing, and other uses.

The Otis library was certified by the State in 2008. It is managed by a seven-member Board of Trustees — three members are elected, and four members serve by appointment — one Library Director, an Assistant, and one part time children's librarian. Great fundraising efforts in 2008 and 2009 raised the funds to become members of the CWMARS network and to completely automate the library system. This increased patron attendance, and broadened circulation of books and other materials through the Interlibrary loan program.

Additionally, the librarians and trustees create story walks, monthly arts and crafts programs, and summer reading programs. Local artists can exhibit on a monthly basis and writers have a venue to speak to small audiences about their books and experiences. Informing the community via the town's website and social media and submitting both articles and calendar events to monthly local publications.

On March 14, 2020, the COVID-

19 Pandemic brought the Otis Library progress to a halt. We have had time to reflect, seeing where we have been and where we are headed. As we traveled through these years, we have had to learn so much from card catalogs to data bases, from our inventory to bookmobiles, to Inter Library Loans. We know how to file, save, download, upload, and zoom.

Where are we headed? Looking Back has been good. Now we need to look at our resources, our needs, and our space. We know we can move on.... Look at how far we have come!

*Kathleen Bort is the director of the Otis Free Public Library.*

### May 25 election deadlines in May

**OTIS** — The deadline to apply for a mailed absentee ballot or a vote by mail ballot for the May 25 Town Election is 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19. The deadline to apply for an Absentee Ballot if voting in the Town Clerk's office is Monday, May 24, at noon. Contact Lyn at 413-269-0100, ext. 5 for assistance.

## BECKET

# Scholarship applications due May 15 for town seniors

**BECKET** — The Becket Scholarship Foundation awards financial grants to students to help with financing their first year of college.

Awards are open to students who live in Becket and are based on schol-

arship, community service, and leadership. Applications must be received by May 15. For more information or to receive the application form, please contact Kathy Rodhouse at KRodhouseR3@aol.com at 413-623-5014.

## First church fundraiser May 8

**BECKET** — The First Congregational Church of Becket has suffered extensive damage from powder post beetles who have destroyed floor beams and belfry beams which will now need to be replaced. The 1850 building has withstood much but this damage went unnoticed for a long time.

The town of Becket Community Preservation Committee was asked last year to provide funds for engineering and architectural work to be done to assess how to best approach the problem. The money was voted on at last year's town meeting and the studies have been completed. The church has a recast Paul Revere bell, the only one left in Berkshire County.

## WARRANT

needed services that are standard from year to year with some increases in different areas.

One of the larger increases in the budget is the Police Department Salaries with an increase of \$57,729. Town Administrator William Caldwell said there is an injured officer, and the town needs to backfill the shifts left open.

Another high increase in the budget is \$73,949 for the Central Berkshire Regional School District operating assessment. Caldwell says that's just the assessment for Becket and the town pays just under 10% of their budget due to enrollment. In a separate item for debt service, it asks the town to raise and appropriate the sum of \$384,812 to fund the debt service due in Fiscal 2022 for previously improved borrowings. This article includes the debt payments for borrowed funds for the town and schools, it shows school construction costs for roofs, windows, doors, sidewalks, and others.

The Broadband is also listed with \$86,674 borrowed funds; Caldwell said nothing in this article is new except the Broadbands initial payment for current funds. Other plans are shown in the article for Capital Expenditures which asks for the town to raise and appropriate, and transfer from available funds for the sum of \$132,000 or any other sum to be used to fund the fiscal 2022 Capital Plan for the town. The plan consists of a pavilion in Maple Street Park, Town Hall HVAC and Renovation, Pavilion extension for Town Hall, Fire Department Hose and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus equipment, and Highway Truck number five. Caldwell said these items are all town priorities and that's what they're being addressed for the upcoming fiscal year.

Other warrant items include the payment of the prior year's bill for the Animal Control Officer's payroll

Funding has again been requested through the CPA fund for the belfry damage to be addressed as it has been determined to be the most immediate problem. This will be a huge undertaking for this small church and so we are beginning to hold fund raisers to begin to accumulate over \$200,000 for the needed work.

The first will be a Mother's Day hanging plant and patio pot sale on Saturday, May 8, at the corner of YMCA Road and Route 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. An assortment of plants will be available and can be reserved by calling 413-623-6455. If someone would like an order form, call the above number and an order form can be emailed.

*from page 1*

request, the ambulance budget and stabilization, remove the borrowing authorization for the ambulance funds used in a fiscal 2019 purchase transfer of \$100,000 from Free Cash to the Stabilization fund, and using the revolving funds for departmental operations.

There are two articles concerning using Community Preservation Funding, one is to fund energy efficiency upgrades at the Arts Center. This article asks the town to transfer the sum of \$21,887 for the installation of insulation and window inserts, this was recommended by the Select Board, the CPA Committee, and Finance Committee.

The second is to fund the historical restoration of the First Congregational Church; the article asks to transfer \$100,000 from Community Preservation fund to complete the needed repairs to the belfry. It asks for \$90,000 from undesignated funds and \$10,000 from Historical Preservation; the belfry has damage from beetles and the church is part of the national historic district.

Another article deals with local option excise tax exemption, this article would allow state service members an exemption on one vehicle when serving out of the country for more than 45 days of an excise year, with a \$3 surcharge added to all delinquent bills.

The final article of the warrant is a citizen's petition for an engine break bylaw. The article asks the town to vote to amend the Becket Bylaws Article 17; Town Betterment Bylaws by adding a section 25 for Engine Braking. The purpose of the bylaw is to prohibit the use of engine retarding and compression braking devices on thickly settled residential roads of Becket.

Residents can view the full warrant on the town's website, townofbecket.org.

**CHECK OUT ALL THE**

**Turley Publications**

[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

## CHESTERFIELD

### TANNING TURTLES



Four turtles sun themselves on a log on a sunny afternoon in a bog on Bagg Road in Chesterfield.  
*Photo by Mary Kronholm*

## Celebrate May Day with library

**CHESTERFIELD** — The Chesterfield Public Library's annual "Plant A Pansy, Pass It On" has been added on to this year with Weave-A-Basket too for May Day tradition. Come by the library on Saturday, May 1, and

### MAPPING

*from page 1*

is buildable at its meeting on Monday, April 26.

"Part of the plan is to determine how much of the 11 acres is able to be built upon; where could we do any development on that property," Town Administrator Sue Labrie said.

Mapping the wetlands will eliminate how much of the 11 acres is not useable, which also will tell the town if the two acres where the house and barn are located are needed.

"Depending on what you can do or not do in the buffer, it cuts into the property pretty well, where if you're not knowing what you're going to do in the future, the last thing you want to do is get rid of those two acres," Chairman Roger Fuller said.

"I think we should do that [mapping]. I think it's a good idea," added Selectboard member Trish Colson-Montgomery.

The town had a wetlands delineation done prior, which will be shared with Larry Holmberg to help with his work mapping the property. The contract with Larry Holmberg is not to exceed \$4,000, which has multiple benefits the town liked.

"He provides his delineation to the surveyor," Labrie said. "[Holmberg's] already done a lot of surveying on neighboring properties, so that's why it costs less because a lot of the work has already been done."

"The other thing it gets is he's surveyed the community center and he's done a lot of the homes in the area," Fuller said. "This is not to exceed [\$4,000], you don't normally get that

enjoy the festivities from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All supplies will be provided. These outside activities will require mask wearing and social distancing. A sanitizing station will be available. Take a flower and basket home or set it upon someone's doorstep.

with other prices, you get a contract amount."

Once the wetlands are delineated, Fuller said the town will have the information it needs to go back to the town to discuss the future of the property.

"Once we get this on paper, I'm hoping that we will set up some sort of special town meeting or information meeting...so we can move forward in a direction once and for all," he said.

Selectman Don Willard raised a couple concerns. First, he wanted to make sure the town won't have to do this process again in four to five years and also wanted to clarify the town is not moving forward with any assumptions about the property being used for a new public safety complex.

"We can't assume that the town wants to put a safety complex on that property when we have other properties that I think we're going to have to [look at] as well," Willard said. "I don't want any people thinking we're assuming that's where we're putting [the safety complex]."

Fuller's vision is the town will discuss the results and collectively figure out what does or doesn't work on the property and bring that information to the town to begin moving the process of utilizing the property forward.

"Then we can go to an informational meeting or special town meeting and have the whole discussion," he said.

Town voters approved the purchase of the property by the town back in January 2019 in a 71 to 6 vote. It was funded from the future land acquisition stabilization account and free cash.

## GOSHEN

# COA luncheon order deadline May 4

**GOSHEN** — The Goshen Council on Aging will be putting on one last pick-up luncheon on Tuesday, May 11, from 11:30 a.m. to noon at the Goshen Town Hall. This month's luncheon will be a choice of meatloaf dinner or chicken parmesan. Just drive through the Town

Hall parking lot and one of the COA board members will bring the meal out to the car. The COA asks patrons consider donating at least \$5 to help cover costs. The deadline for ordering will be Tuesday, May 4. Call Evelyn to make a reservation at 413-268-3316.

## COA looks to reenergize outdoor activities

**GOSHEN** — The Council on Aging hopes most seniors have gotten their vaccine so the community can venture out a little for activities.

On Wednesday, May 5, Pat Wheeler is looking to start her knitting and crochet group outdoors. She is planning on doing this in the town park. If someone would like to join her, please wear a mask, bring a chair, and a cup of tea. Contact Wheeler with any questions at

413-268-7964.

The COA would like to gather on Wednesday, May 19, for another walk, talk, and snack time at 1 p.m. in the town park. Participants will continue to wear masks and sit far enough apart to be socially distanced, but everyone will be able to see each other. Please bring a chair and a snack. If someone needs a ride, please contact the COA to make arrangements.

# SCHOOLS & YOUTH

## SPORTS

from page 1

continuing would rely on the reasons and severity of the issue for the school to go remote. For non-covid related issues like weather, Gateway would be able to resume sports as soon as students returned. If there were a covid related issue, it would depend on the level and severity of going remote.

Other safety guidelines include separating players in and around the dugout and restrictions on spectators. Bonenfant said that the restrictions for spectators had eased up a bit and people were able to gather on bleachers, but the restrictions have since been modified.

"Spectators will be allowed, no bleachers will be available, bringing own chairs is recommended," Bonenfant said. "All spectators will need to wear masks, vaccinated or not, which is in line with overall school rules. Those who do not comply will be asked to leave."

Bonenfant said that teams will be expected to follow social distancing rules, sanitize, and wear masks. They'll be given mask breaks when the players can be appropriately distanced similar to the fall. Bonenfant said he'll be painting

"X" marks for players to use as a station when not at bat or playing. This will help to control players social distancing as the dugout doesn't provide enough room for players to appropriately distance from each other.

The teams will also be following Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association and EEA guidelines that are listed online and provided by the athletic department, including that the school and district program should consult and stay in touch with their local health department to determine risk levels and the progression to the next level. The teams have been allowed to participate in games, the state tournament and sectional; the MIAA has also posted information regarding these aspects as well. Gateway is included in the Tricounty North section; softball will play Franklin Tech, Smith Vocational, Pathfinder, Westfield Technical Academy, and Amherst during the season. While baseball will play the same schools except Amherst, they'll be playing McCann Tech instead.

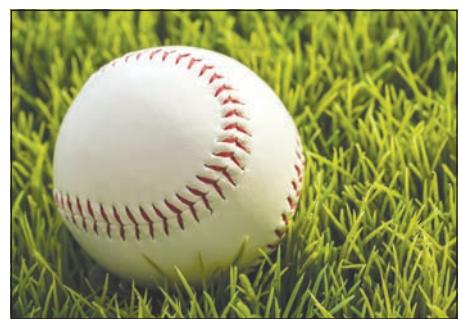
The season started on Monday, April

26, while the present end of the regular season is scheduled for June 15. The post season tournament is supposed to end on July 3, which is after the end of the fiscal year.

"Also, the MIAA is allowing teams opting out of the tournament, or who have been eliminated from the tournament to still compete in games until July 3," Bonenfant said. "This could be complicated, in that contracts and appointed positions end at the end of the fiscal year, June 30. Many other [athletic directors] would like to see June 30 as the completion date due to the same logistics."

He added he and other athletic directors are trying to make the season end date at the end of June. Bonenfant also mentioned on April 14 he received word from MIAA that wrestling for spring season was just approved that day and they'd be sending more information on it when its available. Bonenfant expects to continue to hear from MIAA about how the school should or could carry out this season of wrestling, though he has no timeline of the season current-

ly. The School Committee agreed they'd like to consult with the Board of Health about wrestling before approving it for competition.





**think  
OUTSIDE  
of the  
BIG  
BOX**

**SUPPORT  
COMMUNITY  
BUSINESSES**

## NOTICE

**ERRORS:** Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.



**WHALEN  
INSURANCE**

Protecting you is our only business.

Auto  
Home  
Business

71 King Street  
Northampton, MA 01060  
413-586-1000 • Fax: 413-585-0401  
[www.whaleninsurance.com](http://www.whaleninsurance.com)

Family Owned

**T.J.  
BARK MULCH  
INC.**



Visit [TJBarkMulch.com](http://TJBarkMulch.com) for Coupons

**Since 1985**

**18 Different All Organic Double Ground Premium Mulches**  
Pine • Spruce • Hemlock • Cedar • Red, Black & Brown  
Playground • Forest Blend • Topsoil • Seasoned Firewood

**Now CARRYING DECORATIVE STONE**

We are a mulch manufacturer, not a resaler of other people's products. This means no middleman, and you save on the best product around. Come visit us on the web for great deals!

**413-569-2400** | 25 Sam West Road, Southwick, MA | **860-654-1975**

Find us on:  
[facebook](#)

## We make senior living simple.

Finding and understanding senior living options can be overwhelming and confusing. **Oasis Senior Advisors is here to help, because the right place means everything.**



- Discuss financial options, location and preferences
- Provide a personalized list of local housing options
- Set up and tour communities with you
- Once the right place is selected, we make transitions easy!

**Call for a free in-depth consultation today!**

**Eric Aasheim**  
Certified Senior Advisor (CSA)®  
[EAasheim@YourOasisAdvisor.com](mailto:EAasheim@YourOasisAdvisor.com)

**413-351-6577**



**OASIS  
SENIOR ADVISORS**

Because the right place means everything

Serving Western Mass and Surrounding Areas  
[OasisSeniorAdvisors.com/WesternMass](http://OasisSeniorAdvisors.com/WesternMass)

**Hull** forest products

Growing Beauty and Value in Your Forests Since 1965

[www.hullforest.com](http://www.hullforest.com)  
Station Road, Russell, MA  
Call today for a free consultation!  
(413) 862-3340

- Woodland Management
- Chapter 61 / Stewardship Plans
- Careful Timber Harvesting
- Always Buying Logs & Timber
- Family Owned & Operated

**Joy Salvini**  
Broker Associate  
**RE/MAX COMPASS**

**Experience the JOY of Buying or Selling a Home**

Chester Office: 585 Rt. 20  
**(413) 351-5277**  
email: [Joy.Salvini@comcast.net](mailto:Joy.Salvini@comcast.net)  
Each office independently owned and operated

**FLORUM**  
HORTICULTURE

Plant, Garden & Landscape  
Care  
Consultation  
Coaching

(413) 268-6510      [florumhorticulture.com](http://florumhorticulture.com)

**BUY DIRECT AND SAVE \$\$\$**

**USDA INSP. FRESH ASSORTED PORK CHOPS.....**

**\$1.49 lb**

**USDA INSP. FRESH CENTER CUT BONELESS PORK LOIN.....**

**\$1.77 lb**

**USDA INSP. FRESH SMOKED PORK SHOULDER PICNIC.....**

**\$1.49 lb**

**USDA INSP. TURKEY BREAST.....**

**\$2.99 lb**

**CINCO DE MAYO**

**SHREDDED CHEESE.....**

**\$2.19 ea**

**USDA INSP. FROZEN 12 COUNT TORTILLAS WHOLE.....**

**99¢ lb**

**USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 7 LB BAG GROUND BEEF.....**

**\$2.77 lb**

**USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN CUT FREE.....**

**\$6.99 lb**

**USDA INSP. FRESH BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAKS.....**

**\$4.84 lb**

**USDA INSP. FRESH BEEF EYE ROUND.....**

**\$3.43 lb**

**USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN TENDERLOIN TRAY PAK.....**

**\$1.44 lb**

**USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE DUCKS.....**

**\$3.99 lb**

**USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN THIGH BONE-IN 10 LB BAG.....**

**77¢ lb**

**CUSTOMER PICK OF THE WEEK LARGE EGGS.....**

**99¢ doz**

**FULLY COOKED PEELED SHRIMP 26/30 CT.....**

**\$14.99 ea**

**90 Meat Outlet**

**HOURS:** Mon. - Wed. 8-4  
Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

**SALE DATES:** 4/29/21 - 5/5/21

**BUY DIRECT FOR**

**SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE**

**90 Avocado St.  
Springfield  
413-737-1288  
[www.90meat.com](http://www.90meat.com)**

We reserve the right to limit quantities.



## Al's Tire & Auto Repair

When it comes to tires we do it all,  
from wheelbarrows to big rigs.

**MOST MAJOR TIRE BRANDS AVAILABLE**  
Brakes, Shocks, Struts, Front End Repairs & Alignments  
Air Conditioning Service, Check Engine Lights

918 Southampton Road, Westfield, MA 01085  
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Mike Morin **562-3391 ~ 562-1704** David Fasser



## Richard's

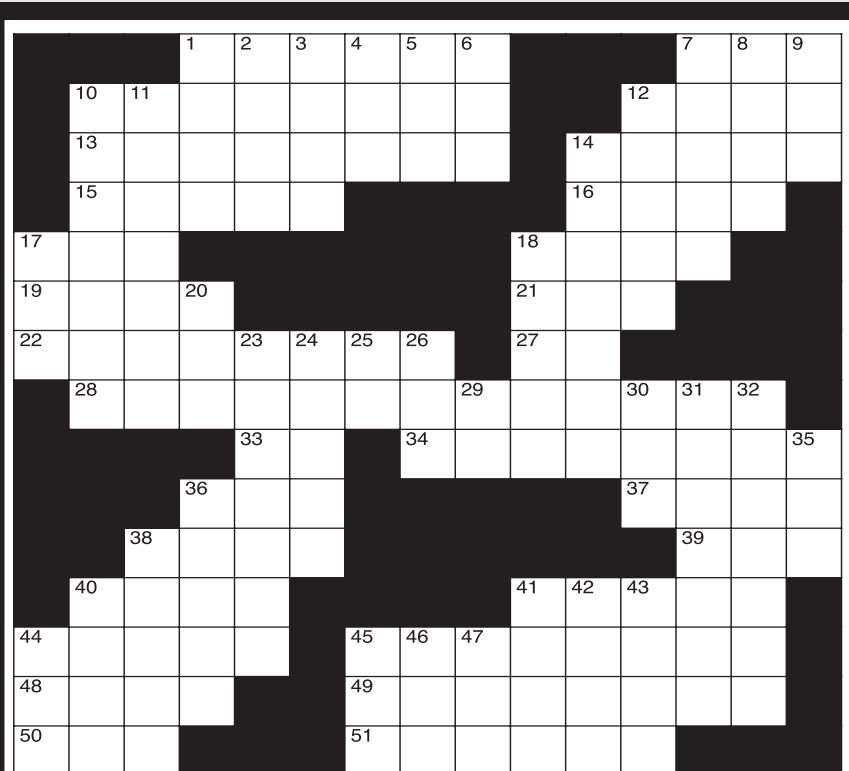
FUEL & HEATING INC.  
Fueling Generations Since 1966

- Locally Owned & Operated for 50 Years
- Oil Customers - 24 Hour Emergency Service & Automatic Delivery Available
- New System Installations - Mitsubishi Electric Diamond Dealer
- Heating Oil Plus - Maximize Energy Dollars: Keep system running Clean

79 Union St., Rear 2, Easthampton, MA 01027

**413-527-0194**

Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30 am - 4:00 pm



### CLUES ACROSS

- Switches
- Legal financial term (abbr.)
- Sweeties
- Competition
- Measures electrical resistance
- Psychotherapy researcher
- Causes injury to
- Open
- Polish peninsula
- Hebrew calendar month
- Whale ship captain
- Children's accessory
- Unknown point
- Exists
- Extremely confident
- Expression of
- disgust
- The government has many
- Small constellation
- Northern Indian city
- The best pitchers
- Naturally occurring solid
- Apple computers
- Portuguese city
- Ancient Greek war dance
- More reliable
- Sailboat
- Newspapers
- Frequently flooded area
- They dig for coal
- Partial
- "Mad Men" leading man
3. The \_\_\_ of March
- Healthy
- Where golfers begin
- Soviet Socialist Republic (abbr.)
- Of the cheek
- Injury reminder
- Statesman Franklin
- For an unknown reason
- Apple computers
- Portuguese city
- Ancient Greek war dance
- More reliable
- Sailboat
- Newspapers
- Frequently flooded area
- They dig for coal
- Partial
- "Mad Men" leading man
26. When you hope to get there
- Top lawyer
- Fiddler crabs
- Intolerant
- Persons that cause extreme fear
- Car mechanics group
- Capital of Ghana
- Famed ballplayer Hank
- Emphasizes insignificance
- Light-colored
- Possesses
- Distinctive smell
- Muckraking journalist Jacob
- Sunscreen rating
- Short-term memory
- Japanese delicacy
- One point north of due east

### CLUES DOWN

- Partial
- "Mad Men" leading man
34. The government has many
36. Small constellation
37. Northern Indian city
38. The best pitchers
39. Naturally occurring solid
40. Apple computers
41. Portuguese city
44. Ancient Greek war dance
45. More reliable
48. Sailboat
49. Newspapers
50. Frequently flooded area
51. They dig for coal
1. Partial
2. "Mad Men" leading man
3. The \_\_\_ of March
4. Healthy
5. Where golfers begin
6. Soviet Socialist Republic (abbr.)
7. Of the cheek
8. Injury reminder
9. Statesman Franklin
10. For an unknown reason
11. Brain parts
12. Islamic calendar month
14. Avenue where ad men work
17. Possesses
18. Accept
20. Stake
23. Former British PM May
24. US battleships circa 1939
25. Greek alphabet letter

## THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

### ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you have a unique perspective, and sometimes you appear uninterested in the opinions of others. But this week it is best to be humble and accept other thoughts.

### CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

It may be tempting to slack off when supervisors are not looking, Cancer. However, a lack of discipline now may have a trickle-down effect in the future. Stay focused.

### LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Your head is pushing you in a practical direction, Libra. Yet your heart wants you to go a different way. Try to find a balance between both scenarios.

### CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, even though you cannot please everyone, you can do what is necessary to make yourself happy. Make this your primary goal this week.

### TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you routinely put caring for others ahead of caring for yourself. This compassion is commendable, but you can't offer help if you aren't in top form.

### LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

You may not be sure if you should pursue an opportunity that is before you, Leo. Consider your skills and talents and be honest with what you are capable of accomplishing.

### GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, let others bring up issues with you rather than prying. You willingness to lend an ear is well-known, and others will come to you on their own.

### VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, even though it can be risky to express your true feelings, especially when you go against popular opinion, don't shy away from being true to yourself.

### SAGITTARIUS

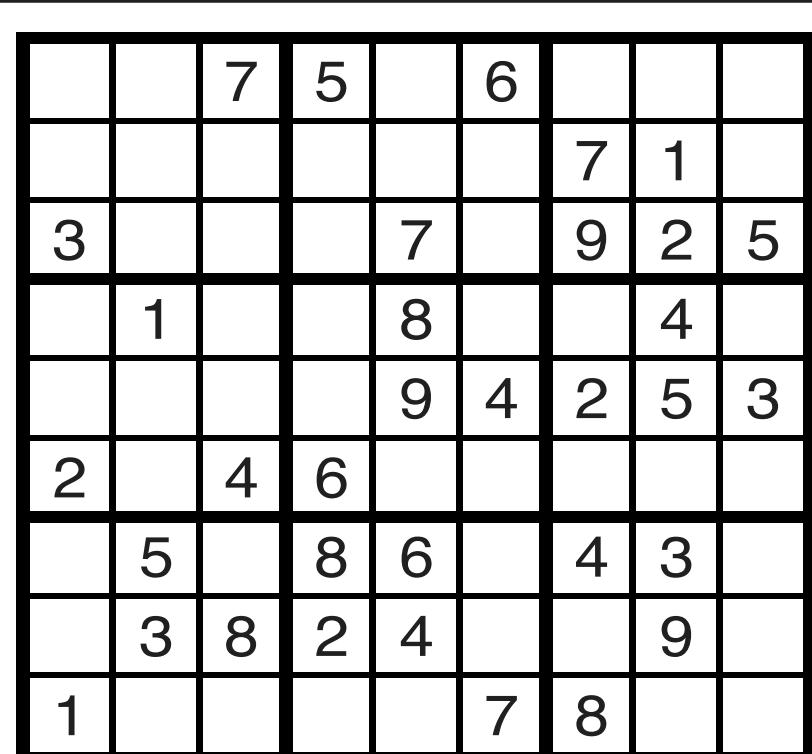
Nov 23/Dec 21

You may be conflicted about telling someone you need a little personal space, Sagittarius. But it's not good to suffer through situations that make you unhappy.

### PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Moving on from an emotional situation can be taxing, Pisces. But it may be necessary right now and could make you stronger in the long run.



## SUDOKU

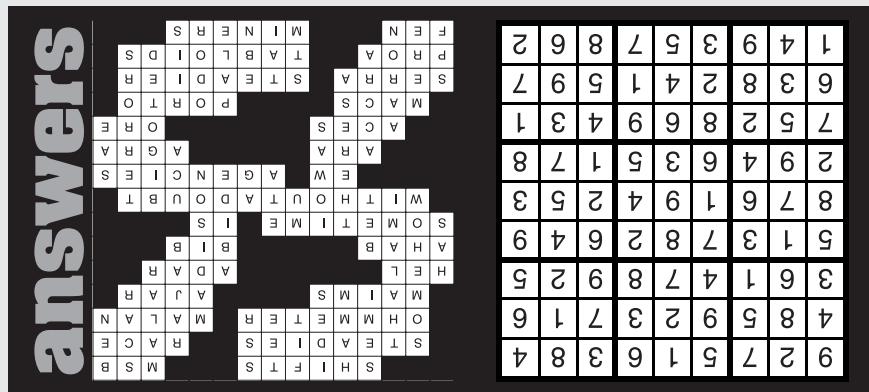
### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

**Answers**



**WESTFIELD**  
**AUTO PARTS INC**



**AUTO PARTS & SUPPLIES**

**NATIONALLY ADVERTISED MERCHANDISE FOR ALL MAKES & MODELS**

**WHOLESALE RETAIL**

- ★ Complete Auto Machine Shop Service
- ★ Engine Rebuilding Of All Kinds
- ★ Authorized Caterpillar Hydraulic Hose Dealer
- ★ Hydraulic Hoses

Call "DALE" 8-12 BIRGE AVE., WESTFIELD

**Dial 568-8944 or 568-1611 FAX # 568-1554**

Now stocking  
Car Quest  
Filters made  
by WIX,  
Amalie Oil,  
Bailing Twine  
&  
Tractor Parts

# WORTHINGTON

## COA plans social gathering

WORTHINGTON — The Council on Aging is planning a social gathering for the community on Monday, June 14, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Town Hall Gardens.

Participants must wear a mask,

social distance, and their own chair. Come listen to music and visit with friends. Individual packaged snacks and water will be provided.

This event is underwritten by the Rolland Fund.

## Local student accepted into Golden Key Honor Society

WORTHINGTON — Resident Ann Matica was named an inductee to the 2021 Golden Key Honor Society for the 2020-2021 academic year.

The Gold Key Honor Society is an interdisciplinary organization founded at Emerson College in 1962 in order to recognize and encourage outstanding

academic achievement. Membership in the Society is extended to juniors in the top 5% and seniors in the top 10% of their class who have earned at least 48 credits at Emerson.

Matica is pursuing a major in Journalism and is a member of the Emerson College Class of 2021.

## Library launches scholarship

WORTHINGTON — The Worthington Library is pleased to announce the 2021 Worthington Library Scholarship.

This award is available to any student completing their high school studies and continuing their education at a post-secondary learning environment.

Applicants are asked to write an essay introducing themselves, describing their next educational pursuits and

answer this question: "When you look back, what book has been your favorite and what lessons will it bring you in the future?"

Essays must be submitted by May 29, 2021.

Mail or hand deliver the essay to The Worthington Library, PO Box 598, Worthington, MA 01098.

For more information, please contact Eileen at 413-238-4461.

## PLAINFIELD

## Fire Department purchase made possible by residents

PLAINFIELD — Earlier this month, the Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department purchased a new 2021 Kawasaki Mule PRO-DX 4x4 UTV. This vehicle replaces a government surplus UTV the department received in 2011 from the Commonwealth. That unit was already "well used" before the town received it and for the past several years had become unreliable due to difficulties starting the unit.

This new vehicle was purchased by the Plainfield Volunteer Firefighter's Association after funds received from many of residents supporting the Association's annual fund drive letter. It was the largest purchase made from the annual fund drive appeal to date — \$20,000. This needed upgrade could not have happened without Plainfield residents and property owner's direct support. The PVFD could not have purchased it from its tax supported annual

budget. The need for this upgrade was critical to the department's abilities to provide rescue EMS support to the town. As many residents know, Plainfield has multiple areas of forest, fields, and woodlands not accessible to large fire apparatus. This includes the DuBuque Memorial State Forest and National Audubon Society land encompassing thousands of acres in Plainfield and surrounding towns. The purchase of this vehicle allows town EMT's and First Responders much needed easier access to rescues throughout the town.

The department hopes to purchase a winter track system and trailer later this year to allow better access to difficult locations that are created during the cold weather months. PVFD and PVFA thanks the residents again for funding an apparatus upgrade without using its annual budget.

## 32 articles to be voted at Annual Town Meeting Saturday, May 1

at Mohawk Regional Elementary School.

The town has several items utilizing the stabilization fund on the warrant including \$24,600 for Hathaway Hall interior renovations, \$10,428 from stabilization and \$14,574 from free cash to paint the Town Hall, and \$5,000 to fund an additional building at the transfer station. Article 13 will ask voters to approve borrowing \$120,000 for up to five years to purchase a used grader for the Highway Department.

There are several bylaw additions on the warrant as well including proposed zoning bylaw amendments, newly amended animal control bylaw, a demolition delay bylaw, and a bylaw regarding the use of "Jake Brakes."

The full warrant is available at plainfield-ma.us.

## BYLAW

there are homes available at decent prices in town.

Residents a variety of questions and concerns regarding the petition. Julia Sharron, who was on the Selectboard when it voted to implement the 400-foot frontage requirement, said the decision was made at the time to preserve Worthington's rural character.

"The reason we did it at that time was because we had a developer...who was going to all the hilltowns buying up as much land as they could," she said. "They bought up all the lots, made a fortune and left all the problems to the towns."

Sharron also said she feels ATM is not the place for this issue, as it requires more time and attention to fully address the issue.

"I think it's a very big decision and I don't think we can handle it lightly. Anything of this importance shouldn't be at town meeting," she said. "Housing is an issue, but we can't take it lightly."

Mark Shapiro thanked McCarthy for bringing the issue attention so it can be discussed, but feels there are a variety of factors, not just frontage, that need to be looked at before making changes.

"It is such an important issue it needs to be considered in a more comprehensive way," Shapiro said. "The issue of affordable housing really needs to be considered along with multi-density zoning, the ADU, and frontage. Frontage is only one component of this picture, which is quite complex."

Moderator Kevin O'Connor agreed the issue requires more discussion, but said the ATM will be following Gov. Charlie Baker's covid requirements same as last year and they won't be allowing discussion for topics outside of what is specifically on the warrant.

"It is prohibitive in a lot ways, but I think it was an attempt to deal with the situation you were dealing with," he said. "I understand the desire for more homes, for more affordability, but I think all of it requires more talk."

One question to McCarthy was asked is if she had considered a variance to build her house rather than pursue a zoning bylaw change. McCarthy said they inquired about it, but didn't pursue it because they were told they probably wouldn't receive one. Planning Board Chair Amy Wang said she isn't a supporter of handing out variances.

"I am not fond of granting variances, except for very small things, because if we continue to grant variances, what would be the point of having a zoning law?" she said. "It was not possible to split it [their lot] down the center; that would require two variances because we'd be creating two nonconforming lots. I was advised by town counsel that was not a good thing to do."

Wang said the Planning Board will continue looking into the issue of affordable housing in Worthington regardless of the voting outcome for the petition on Saturday. Planning Board Member Isaac Bauer asked if the board should not recommend the petition while it considers the frontage along with other zoning bylaw changes to "allow for smart growth while taking a more considered and measured approach."

The board debated if it wanted to make a recommendation for the town to vote in favor or against the petition after a public hearing was held on Friday, April 23, but ultimately decided to not make a recommendation outside of stating to the town the petition should require a two-thirds vote to pass on the floor of ATM.

## WESTHAMPTON

## Selectboard preps for ATM articles

By Shelby Macri

WESTHAMPTON — The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 8, at 9 a.m. and the warrant will be available on the town website, westhampton-ma.com, this week.

The Selectboard will have additional meetings before the ATM to further discuss a few items on the warrant including the Municipal Vulnerability Planning grant that Selectboard member Teri Anderson is working on.

Anderson said there is a lot of work going into the application and she'd like to have another meeting to discuss the MVP in more detail as to not monopolize the Selectboard meeting time. Chair Phil Dowling and member Maureen Dempsey agreed, and a meeting will be held on Monday, May 3, to delve deeper on what's needed for the MVP grant. Anderson said she has reached out to local schools for the grant, contacting three school committee members, but has received no response.

She added a personal friend has contacts in the school and her friend reached out to school members as well, but she hasn't heard from them either. Anderson assured the board that she'll stay on the schools to get the appropriate information she needs for the MVP grant. With this grant process and the ATM coming

up the board agreed to hold a separate meeting with the Finance Committee before the May 8.

On Thursday, May 6, the Selectboard will meet with the Finance Committee to discuss the MVP grant, and a few other items brought up in the board meeting on Monday, April 26. The actuary study of Other Post-Employment Benefits trust funds was discussed in the meeting and while they're making progress on this, the board members agreed that further information was needed for the OPEB actuary study before approving it as it is currently.

The same goes for the investment policy that the board reviewed last night; though the policy had a specific timeline and the board voted to approve the investment policy currently, they're going to look more into it further and make adjustments as needed.

During one of these separate meetings the board members will review article motions for the ATM, to be fully informed and prepared for the meeting later next week. Residents should look for the ATM warrant postings around town, including at the Town Hall and on the town website. The warrant will be posted online this week to give residents ample time and information before they have to vote on the numerous items on Saturday, May 8.

## MVP listening session meets tonight

WESTHAMPTON — Residents are invited to join a discussion about the town's municipal vulnerability preparedness on Thursday, April 29, from 7 to 8 p.m.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Governor's guidelines for distancing and gatherings, the meeting will be

held virtually. Login details for the Zoom meeting are available on the town website, Westhampton-ma.com.

The discussion will include an overview of the MVP program, climate change in Westhampton, town strengths and vulnerabilities, priorities, and discussions or questions.

*from page 1*

# OBITUARY

## Lorelei Marie Piers

Lorelei Marie Piers passed away peacefully in her sleep on March 8, 2021. "Lore," was the precious daughter of Eleanor Piers, and the beloved sister of Dawne and Tim Gamble, Wayne Piers and Maggie Durie, Craig Piers, George and Kimberly Piers, Jonathan and Rebecca Piers, Brad Piers and Megan Collins. She was the cherished Auntie to 19 nieces and nephews and six great nieces and nephews. Lorelei leaves behind her dear, longtime boyfriend Lenny Poudrier and treasured friend Laura Hoey.

Lorelei's unique gifts were loving people unabashedly and connecting them. Her reach was wide, like an encompassing hug that made people feel special. In honor of Lorelei's amazing life, her family wishes to express sincere gratitude to all those people who have been a part of her story. Due to the pandemic, her funeral will be private.

Donations in Lorelei's memory can be made to Riverside Industries, 1 Cottage Street, Easthampton, MA 01027. For a more in depth obituary and pictures, please see [www.firtionadams.com/listings](http://www.firtionadams.com/listings).

# PUBLIC NOTICES

### Town of Williamsburg Notice of Public Tree Hearing Planning Board and Tree Warden Monday, May 3, 2021 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Access to the Zoom link on the Planning Board Agenda [www.burg.org](http://www.burg.org) under Calendars

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 87, section 3, a public hearing will be held on Monday, May 3, 2021 via Zoom to consider a request to remove the trees listed below at 61 Old Goshen Road. The trees are marked with yellow caution tape along with a copy of this notice.

(8) Ash ranging from 5"-18" DBH  
(3) Oak ranging from 5"-6" DBH  
(2) Soft Maple - 6" and 18" DBH  
(1) Sugar Maple - 13" DBH  
(2) Cherry - 7" and 10" DBH  
04/22, 04/29/2021

### Town of Blandford, MA Planning Board NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Due to the current pandemic caused by covid-19, there has been a suspension of certain provisions of the open meeting law G.L.C. 30A 18, as well as limitation on the size of gatherings. Please join the public hearing virtually from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

• Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87248407731>

- Meeting ID: 872 4840 7731
- Phone Dial In: 1-301-715-8592

In accordance with Chapter 40A, Section 9 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Blandford Planning Board is looking to adopt Rules and Regulations governing the organization and conduct of the Planning Board and the governing review and action on Site Plan Review, and Special Permit Applications. These Rules and Regulations can be accessed on the Town of Blandford website or hard copies may be obtained in the Town Hall.

Hearing will be scheduled on **May 5, 2021** during the Planning Board meeting scheduled to begin at **6:00pm**. Agenda for this meeting includes the regular meeting, a hearing on Belle Fleur Holdings, LLC, and this hearing, which will begin immediately following the Belle Fleur hearing.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard should join the virtual meeting as outlined above or e-mail the chair at: [planning@townofblandford.com](mailto:planning@townofblandford.com). Please submit comments, in writing, to the Blandford Planning Board at 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008.

Michael Hutchins,  
Chairman  
Blandford Planning Board  
04/22, 04/29/2021

### Town of Blandford, MA Planning Board NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Due to the current pandemic caused by covid-19, there has been a suspension of certain provisions of the open meeting law G.L.C. 30A 18, as well as limitation on the size of gatherings. Please join the public hearing virtually from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

- Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87248407731>
- Meeting ID: 872 4840 7731
- Phone Dial In: 1-301-715-8592

Pursuant to MGL, CH40A Sec. 9 the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing at the Blandford Town Hall, 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008 **virtually at 6:00pm on May 5, 2021**. This hearing is scheduled under the following Zoning By-Laws of the Town of Blandford: Section IX – Site Plan Review and Special Permits and XV – Adult Use Marijuana Establishments of the Zoning By-Laws of the Town of Blandford to consider the application for a request for a Site Plan Review and Special Permit for the BELLE FLEUR HOLDINGS, LLC, Marijuana Cultivation Project, located at 138 Otis Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008. The applicants propose to install a marijuana cultivation establishment on 36.5 acres, that is currently zoned as Agricultural and Undeveloped with proposed access from Otis Stage Road. The completed application and plans are available for public inspection using

a drop box on the Town of Blandford's website: [townofblandford.com](http://townofblandford.com) or [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/sy8an1xesznixmh/AACp\\_GKgKHNPpz090DJsAlY?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/sy8an1xesznixmh/AACp_GKgKHNPpz090DJsAlY?dl=0) You may also make an appointment to view a hard copy of these forms at the Town Hall by e-mailing the Planning Board Chair at [planning@townofblandford.com](mailto:planning@townofblandford.com). Any person interested or wishing to be heard should join the virtual meeting as outlined above or e-mail the chair at: [planning@townofblandford.com](mailto:planning@townofblandford.com). Please submit comments, in writing, to the Blandford Planning Board at 1 Russell Stage Road, Blandford, MA 01008.

Michael Hutchins,  
Chairman  
Blandford Planning Board  
04/22, 04/29/2021

### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING WILLIAMSBURG CONSERVATION COMMISSION Williamsburg, MA

The Williamsburg Conservation Commission, in accordance with MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, the Wetlands Protection Act, will hold a public meeting on **Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Williamsburg town offices, 141 Main St., Haydenville, MA to review a Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by John and Angela Otis.

The subject area or activity is located at 61 Old Goshen Road.  
04/29/2021

## DEATH NOTICE

### PIERS, LORELEI MARIE

Died March 8, 2021  
Firtion Adams Funeral Home

*Country Journal*

## OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)

2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.

3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

*Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.*

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)



**Send Us Your Summer Event Information**

**Turley Publications will print your summer calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE in our SUMMERFEST Supplement which publishes early June.**

**Deadline for submissions is May 4th.**

## Community Summer Events Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

**FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley**

Event Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name & phone number for more information \_\_\_\_\_

*Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.*

**CLIP OUT AND MAIL TO:**

**Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069**

**or email\* them to: [jamie@turley.com](mailto:jamie@turley.com)**

**\*Be sure to indicate "Summer" in the subject line of your email.**

# Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

**FOR SALE**

**ANTIQUE AND PERIOD CHAIRS**  
- Restored with new woven seats - Many styles and weaves available. Call (413)289-6670

**DISH TV - \$59.99** For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Call 1-877-925-7371

**MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. EXTRAORDINARY** performance. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today 413-296-4320.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**A PLACE FOR MOM.** The nation's largest senior living referral service. Contact our trusted, local experts today! Our service is FREE/no obligation. CALL 1-855-799-4127

**DEALING WITH WATER DAMAGE** requires immediate action. Local professionals that respond immediately. Nationwide & 24/7. No Mold Calls. 1-800-506-3367

**DO YOU HAVE** chronic knee or back pain? If you have insurance, you may qualify for the perfect brace at little to no cost. Get yours today! Call 1-800-217-0504

**INVENTORS- FREE INFORMATION PACKAGE** Have your product idea developed affordably by the Research & Development pros and presented to manufacturers. Call 855-380-5976 for a free idea starter guide. Submit your idea for a free consultation.

**LIFE ALERT. 24/7.** One press of a button sends help FAST! Medical, Fire, Burglar. Even if you can't reach a phone! FREE brochure. CALL 800-457-1917

**FOR SALE**

**MOBILEHELP, AMERICA'S PREMIER MOBILE MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM.** Whether you're Home or Away. For Safety and Peace of Mind. No Long Term Contracts! Free Brochure! Call Today! 1-844-892-1017

**OXYGEN-ANYTIME. ANYWHERE.** No tanks to refill. No deliveries. Only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved! FREE info kit: Call 1-855-917-4693

**PROMOTE YOUR PRODUCT,** service or business to 1.7 million households throughout New England. Reach 4 million potential readers quickly and inexpensively with great results. Use the Buy New England Classified Ad Network by calling (413)283-8393, classifieds@turley.com. Do they work? You are reading one of our ads now!! Visit our website to see where your ads run communitypapersne.com

**STAY IN YOUR HOME** longer with an American Standard Walk-In Bath-tub. Receive up to \$1,500 off, including a free toilet, and a lifetime warranty on the tub and installation! Call us at 1-866-945-3783.

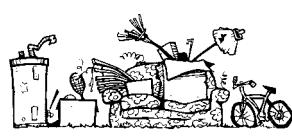
**STOP STRUGGLING ON THE STAIRS.** Give your life a lift with an ACORN STAIRLIFT! Call now for \$250. OFF your stairlift purchase and FREE DVD & brochure! 1-844-325-8610

**WANTED**

**OLD CARPENTER TOOLS** wanted. Planes, chisels, axes, etc. Vintage hunting, camping, cast iron cookware. Covid guidelines followed. Call Ken (413)433-2195.

**WANTED TO BUY**

**COMIC BOOKS WANTED!** Comics, Comic Artwork, Vintage Toys, Pulps, Mags! 50+ years of experience! Gary Dolgoff 413-529-0326 gary@gdcomics.com

**SERVICES****\*\*\*\*\*A CALL WE HAUL****WE TAKE IT ALL****WE LOAD IT ALL**

Lowest Rates, accumulations, junk, estates, attics, garages, appliances, basements, demo services.

10% disc. with this ad of services. Dumpster Rentals available for rent.

All Major CC's

CALL NOW (413)531-1936

acallwehaul@gmail.com

**CHAIR SEAT WEAVING & refinishing** - cane, fiber rush & splint - Classroom instructor, 20+ years experience. Call Walt at (413)289-6670 for estimate.



**WE RENOVATE, SELL & PURCHASE** (any condition) horse drawn vehicles such as sleighs, carriages, surreys, wagons, dr's buggies, driveable or lawn ornaments. Some furniture and other restoration services available. Reasonable prices. Quality workmanship. Call (413)213-0373 for estimate and information.

**DEMERS & SONS**  
BELCHERTOWN, MA

**CHILD SERVICES**

**\*NEW STATE LAW.** Anyone advertising caring of children must list a license number to do so if they offer this service in their own home.

**SERVICES****HOME IMPROVEMENT**

**DELREO HOME IMPROVEMENT** for all your exterior home improvement needs. ROOFING, SIDING, WINDOWS, DOORS, DECKS & GUTTERS. Extensive references available, Fully Licensed & Insured in MA. & CT. Call GARY DELCAMP @ 413-569-3733

**LANDSCAPING**

**T & S LANDSCAPING** Highest quality, lowest price. Serving the Pioneer Valley. Weekly, bi-weekly mowing, Spring, Fall and Gutter clean-ups. (413)330-3917

**MASONRY****STOP WET BASEMENTS**  
ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

**AUTO**

**CARS/TRUCKS WANTED!!!** All Makes/ Models 2000-2019! Any Condition, Running or Not. Top \$\$\$ Paid! Free Towing! We're Nationwide! Call Now: 1-888-513-1505.

Read your local newspaper online at [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

**PETS****HORSES**

**HORSEBACK RIDING LESSONS** offered year round at our state of the art facility. Beginner to advanced. Ages 4 years to adult. Boarding, Sales and Leasing also available. Convenient location at Orion Farm in South Hadley (413)532-9753 [www.orionfarm.net](http://www.orionfarm.net)

**HELP WANTED**

**KATIE'S COUNTRY STORE** Looking for seasonal and year round positions. Apply in person @ 1922 E. Otis Rd., East Otis 413-269-4211.

**REAL ESTATE****VACATION RENTALS**

**WARM WEATHER IS** Year Round In Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-Bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. Email: carolacton@aol.com for more information.

**REAL ESTATE**

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

**BUY LOCALLY**  
support our community!**HELP WANTED****PERSONAL DRIVER/ ASSISTANT NEEDED.**

We are looking for a dynamic individual for the role of Driver/Personal Assistant. This is a unique position that requires exceptional interpersonal skills and respect for personal boundaries. The ideal candidate must be willing to accommodate a high degree of flexibility in their work schedule and be available on short notice. Compensation will be commensurate with experience and include a competitive salary and extended benefits package. Contact ([Markstowing024@gmail.com](mailto:Markstowing024@gmail.com)) for more details.

**FOR RENT**

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

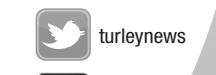
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

**Turley Publications, Inc.**

[www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

**AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS**

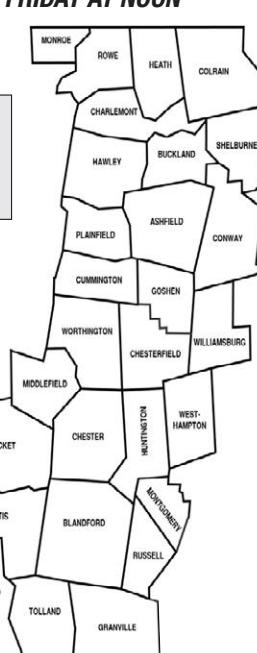
- BARRE GAZETTE
- COUNTRY JOURNAL
- CHICOPEE REGISTER
- THE JOURNAL REGISTER
- THE LUDLOW REGISTER
- QUABBOOG CURRENT
- THE SENTINEL
- THE SUN
- WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES
- TOWN REMINDER
- WARE RIVER NEWS



turleynews



TurleyPublications



Buy the Hilltowns ZONE for \$9.50 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in ALL THREE ZONES.

First ZONE base price \_\_\_\_\_ Includes additional words

Add a second ZONE \$10.00 Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):

Add a third ZONE \$5.00 Hilltowns

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ Suburban

x Number of Weeks \_\_\_\_\_ Quabbin

TOTAL Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER**

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or call toll free: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES:

HILLTOWNS - MONDAY AT NOON

QUABBIN & SUBURBAN - FRIDAY AT NOON

**CATEGORY:**

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$9.50
21 Base Price \$10.00	22 Base Price \$10.50	23 Base Price \$11.00	24 Base Price \$11.50
25 Base Price \$12.00	26 Base Price \$12.50	27 Base Price \$13.00	28 Base Price \$13.50
29 Base Price \$14.00	30 Base Price \$14.50	31 Base Price \$15.00	32 Base Price \$15.50
33 Base Price \$16.00	34 Base Price \$16.50	35 Base Price \$17.00	36 Base Price \$17.50
37 Base Price \$18.00	38 Base Price \$18.50	39 Base Price \$19.00	40 Base Price \$19.50

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**



Matt Hayslett and his mom, Sandra Hayslett, enjoy the sun and woods during a hike led by the Hilltown Hikers at Knightville Dam in Huntington to Old Cullen Road and the Dexter Lyman Homestead and Farm from the late 1800's in exceptional preserved condition. Thirty acres of this area was also the Black Panther Ski Resort, the first in New England. We viewed the ski tows and ski runs along the trail as well, even had an impromptu car show.

*Submitted photos*



Joanne Fortin looks from the top of the foundation wall.

## Knightville Knot



Group hikers are excited to see the remains of the ski lift.



Shelly Hamilton looks at old foundation remains at the homestead.



Hike Leader Liz Massa, left, discusses the area with Dan Lombardo, Shelly Hamilton, and Christopher Bathurst.



Debbie Sykes and Matt Hayslett check out the remains of a well hole.

## BLANDFORD

### CELEBRATE NATURE



Tree Warden Mark Boomsma's family took charge of dispensing trees for Earth Day on Saturday, April 24. Pictured from left are Greta Boomsma, Maureen Boomsma, and Charlie Boomsma at the table to hand out requested trees.

## Resilient Master Plan workshop May 8

BLANDFORD — The Barrett Planning Group LLC will host the Resilient Master Plan Implementation Workshop on Saturday, May 8, from 10 a.m. to noon. Anyone and everyone may participate.

The workshop will review proposed strategies and recommendations on the draft plan, offering one last chance to provide feedback as the end of the planning process nears. A draft of the master plan is on the town website. This is a great opportunity to weigh in on the possibilities for the town.

Please use the registration link, [form.jotform.com/211094264179154](http://form.jotform.com/211094264179154), to sign up for participation. Registered participants are also eligible for a free

breakfast from the Blandford Country Store and Café.

Please note, participants can pick up their free breakfast at the Blandford Country Store between 9 a.m. and 9:50 a.m. before the workshop starts at 10 a.m.

Responses for participants who are interested in a free breakfast must be submitted by Thursday, May 6 at noon.

As part of the Workshop, there will also be a photo contest. The best photo that captures Blandford's beauty will be revealed at the Implementation Workshop, and featured in the final Resilient Master Plan.

Please upload photos into the registration form for a chance to win.

## Water Dept. needs plant upgrade

**By Mary Kronholm**

BLANDFORD — The Water Department addressed their need for a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system upgrade for the filtration plant.

SCADA systems can monitor tank levels, chemical levels, ultraviolet intensity, and environmental conditions, as well as pumps, valves, and filters without needing constant staff to monitor functions. Monitoring can be done remotely, and the filtration plant needs to upgrade the existing system.

"We want to move forward," said Water Supervisor Gordon Avery. The cost is the next phase of the process.

Wright-Pierce, according to town Administrator Joshua A. Garcia, came in with "a highly advantageous" price. The select board agreed to proceed with negotiating a contract, "to satisfy the procurement process," Garcia added.

Wright-Pierce has offices from Florida to Maine, and is also located in Westfield. They specialize in all phases of water use.

Eversource notified the Select Board that there will be tree maintenance along their right of ways starting soon. This year, however, Asplundh, the firm doing the work, will use a helicopter fitted with a "roto blade" to trim the sidelines of the right of ways.

Eversource and Asplundh will notify nearby Property owners and the helicopter trimming will only be used "in the more remote wooded areas beyond residential zones," according to Joe Mitchell, Community Relations and Economic Development Specialist for Eversource.

The Police and Fire departments will be informed of the tree trimming.

The board requested a meeting with the Board of Health, Doug Emo and the Recreation Committee regarding the town's annual Memorial Day observations and picnic to see if this will be possible. They will discuss possibilities next week, May 3. Garcia told the board that Police Chief Tammy Weidhaas had proposed a function at which the police department could be introduced to the community, and the Memorial Day events would be ideal. Garcia asked to include Weidhaas.

There will also be a dog hearing on Monday, May 3, starting at 6 p.m. At the April 15 meeting, Kim Blanchette of Birch Hill Road brought to the board's attention that the pit bull Dixie belonging to John and Susan Vurovecz, also on Birch Hill Road, was "off leash" and came after her and her dog, Trooper. Animal Control Officer Theresa Donovan and the board consider any action at the hearing.

Garcia told the board that there are two candidates for the position of Highway Superintendent and they will be interviewed next week.

The board reviewed departmental expenses, the Request for Proposals for Treasurer and Collector services and the warrant for the June 21 Annual Town Meeting.

The board requested that Building Inspector Jason Forgue meet with them next week to discuss major changes to the town's bylaws regarding "junk automobiles".

At the conclusion of business, the board voted to go into executive session "to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health of an individual" in accordance with the Mass. General Laws.

## Walk audit for town center Friday

BLANDFORD — The Hilltown Community Development, Healthy Hampshire and WalkBoston will conduct a Blandford Walk Audit this Friday, April 30, from 11 a.m. to 12:30

in the center of town. The walk will cover approximately one mile in the center, and is limited to 25 people according to Governor Baker's Covid order.